



WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

EST. 1891

DELIVERED ELECTRONICALLY

February 13, 2023

Dear Wisconsin State Senators,

We write on behalf of the members of the Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association to ask for your action to again confirm Secretary-designee Missy Hughes to lead the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC).

WCMA members appreciate Secretary-designee Hughes' clear understanding of the dairy industry, and of the economic development needs of Wisconsin's rural communities. We applaud her work over the past four years not only to grow dairy processors through traditional, targeted support packages, but also via innovative pandemic aid programs and in-demand offerings to address barriers to employment, including affordable childcare, housing and training. We also applaud her work to grow Wisconsin dairy exports via the impactful Collaborative Market Access Grants and International Market Access Grants programs, and in her agency's work with the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's on the new and effectual Wisconsin Initiative on Agricultural Exports program.

Our industry views Secretary-designee Hughes as a partner, and we value her accessibility and clear communication.

We urge the Senate's swift confirmation of Secretary-designee Hughes. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Umhoefer
Executive Director

Rebekah Sweeney
Senior Director, Programs & Policy

Note: For more than 130 years, the Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association has served as the voice of cheese and dairy manufacturers, processors, and marketers. Today, WCMA represents 115 dairy processing companies and cooperatives operating across the United States and around the world, backed by 550 companies that supply equipment and services to the industry.